

ELLIS

Appl. No. Unassigned

April 8, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please insert the following new Abstract presented on a separate sheet attached to this response.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A catalyst composition and its use for the oxidation of ethane and/or ethylene to acetic acid, which composition comprises in combination with oxygen the elements molybdenum, vanadium, niobium and gold in the absence of palladium according to the empirical formula:  $\text{Mo}_a\text{W}_b\text{Au}_c\text{V}_d\text{Nb}_e\text{Y}_f$  (I), wherein Y is one or more elements selected from the group consisting of : Cr, Mn, Ta, Ti, B, Al, Ga, In, Pt, Zn, Cd, Bi, Ce, Co, Rh, Ir, Cu, Ag, Fe, Ru, Os, K, Rb, Cs, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Zr, Hf, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Si, Sn, Tl, U, Re, Te and La; and a, b, c, d, e and f represent the gram atom ratios of the elements such that: 0-5.